

## **(Economic) Life without Missouri's Forests**

What would life be like if Missouri had no forests? Besides being a lot less pleasant, scenic and enjoyable for us and the plants and animals that rely on Missouri's forests, Missouri's wallets would take a big hit!

A recent analysis by the Missouri Department of Conservation showed that the forest products industry contributed \$5.7 billion annually to the Missouri economy in 2006 dollars. The industry supports over 31,700 jobs at a payroll of about \$1.25 billion and is responsible for over \$465 million in taxes that help to run our state and country, including \$57 million in state sales tax. These numbers include not only the direct effect of jobs in the primary wood processing industry (such as logging and sawmill operations) but also indirect and "induced" effects in the secondary wood products industry (such as cabinet shops, log cabs, paperboard manufacturing and so on) and in the economy as a whole (loggers, sawyers, and carpenters, after all, buy groceries and gas just like the rest of us). Results are based on data collected by the US Bureau of Economic Analysis, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the US Department of Agriculture, and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) in 2005 and 2006, and compiled by the Minnesota IMPLAN Group and MDC.

And that \$5.7 billion doesn't even include the value of a day spent walking in Missouri's woods with your family searching for morels, trying to spot a migrating warbler or next season's big buck. That part is priceless!

Source: Missouri Department of Conservation, 2007.